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English Accessions

The generous bequest of Francis Bullard contained a representative selection of proofs of a mezzotint series known as "English Landscape,"—subjects designed by John Constable and engraved by David Lucas. Two rich, early trial proofs of "The Mill" and "Castle Acre Priory" respectively, recently received, help to illustrate the many formative changes of these splendid plates.

Mezzotint portraits by Charles Turner, John Smith and others, add interesting examples in this great field of English eminence. The English school is further enriched by several landscapes, in mezzotint and in aquatint, by that indefatigable teacher and exponent of the beauties of black and white, Sir Frank Short, whose powers are somewhat suggested by the accompanying illustration.

E. H. R.

French Gothic Niche

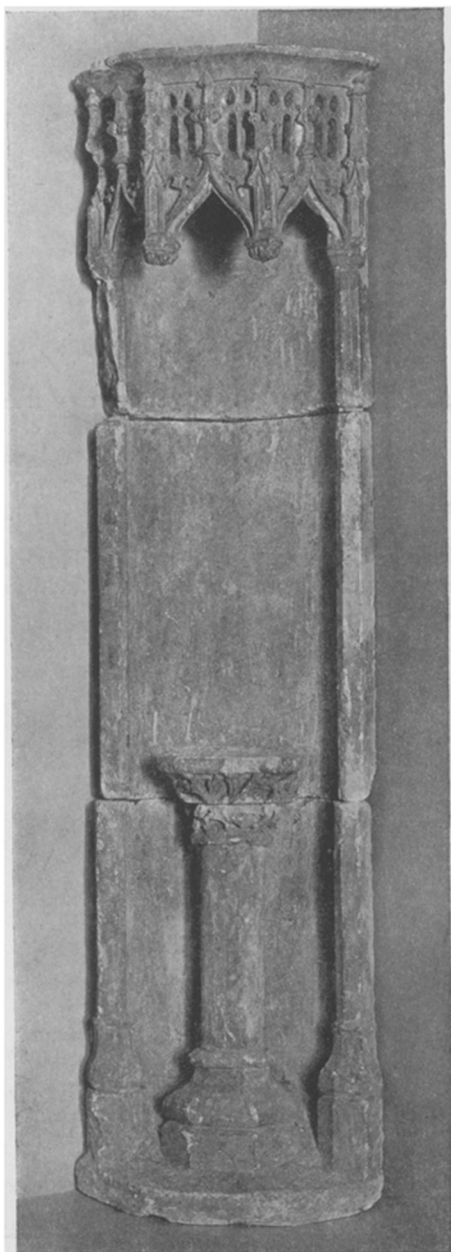
THE most recent addition to the collections of Western Art is the sculptured stone niche here illustrated. It is seven and one-half feet high, carved from a soft gray stone which has taken on various warm tones with age. Originally a detail of one of the great cathedrals, perhaps from a porch or from a royal tomb in one of the side chapels, it has been cut out in three sections and made to fit into a corner. The pedestal, which is attached to the slightly curved back of the niche, has a capital carved with twining Gothic leaves and undoubtedly supported the statuette of some saint. The base of the niche and pedestal are octagonal, as are also the side piers and the canopy which springs from them. These details and those of the canopy—the ogee arches, slightly foliated pinnacles and simple pierced tracery—suggest that the structure to which the niche belonged was of the early fifteenth century. F. V. P.

Gallery Books on Sale

A number of visitors to the Museum have asked to buy the manifolded gallery books lately installed as lending copies in the Renaissance Court. Copies of the books will hereafter be sold at thirty cents each, postpaid, or twenty-five cents at the Museum.

A series of similar books has been prepared for the Main Floor Galleries of Classical Art, and will shortly be installed. They will be sold at the same price.

These "Gallery Books" are complete lists of the objects shown in the galleries for which they are written. It is planned to keep them revised to correspond to changes of exhibition. They differ from catalogues of the collections in containing no objects which cannot be seen at the time. They differ from the Handbook of the Museum in mentioning every exhibit; and from labels in giving much fuller information than can be put on a card. They are a new form of aid to the Museum visitor, and it is hoped may be found a valuable dependence. Their first aim is to help toward the understanding of our exhibits by spectators on the spot. Nevertheless, with the aid of illustrations, obtainable in many cases at the Museum in the form of photographs and postal cards, they may become a useful means of reviewing at home what has been seen in the galleries. G.



Sculptured Niche

*French Gothic
Early Fifteenth Century*